

June 06, 2018

PIN 18-05-CCP

TO: ALL CHILD CARE LICENSEES AND PROVIDERS

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*
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SUBJECT: **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Revised Handbook and the Healthy Beverages in Child Care Act**

AUTHORITY: AB 2084, Chapter 593, Statutes of 2010, Health and Safety Code Section 1596.808 and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 101227

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 18-05-CCP provides a summary review of changes and links to the full text of the revised Child and Adult Food Program Handbook, effective October 1, 2017, and clarifies compliance with California's Healthy Beverages in Child Care Act.

CACFP "Requirement for Meals" Handbook Revisions

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides aid to child care centers and family child care homes who serve specified nutritious foods that contribute to the healthy growth and development of young children. The CACFP "Requirements for Meals" handbook, which provides guidelines by varying age groups is published in the Federal Code of Regulations, Title 7, section 226.20.

On April 25, 2016, the CACFP "Requirements for Meals" handbook was published with revisions, including new standards, effective October 1, 2017. Participating child care facilities must now be in compliance with the newly revised CACFP handbook, the complete text of which may be accessed at [Federal Register Volume 81, Number 79](#).

New meal patterns contain a greater variety of vegetables and fruits, whole grains, and protein, with less added sugar and solid fats. A parent or guardian may choose to accept or decline offered formula for their infant and instead supply an iron-fortified infant formula, expressed breastmilk, or a mother may directly breastfeed her infant, all of which are eligible for reimbursement by the CACFP program. When an infant is also consuming solid foods, the facility must supply all other required meal components in order for the meal to be reimbursable.

The previously combined fruit and vegetable component, must now be served as two separate components. Pasteurized “full-strength” fruit and vegetable juices may only be substituted for fruit or vegetable servings at one meal, including a snack, per day. This is consistent with California’s Healthy Beverages in Child Care Act, Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 1596.808, which prohibits child care facilities from serving more than one glass of 100-percent juice per day.

Clarification Regarding the Healthy Beverages in Child Care Act

HSC section 1596.808 prohibits licensed child care providers from serving beverages with either natural or artificial added sweeteners. Contrary to the statute, the CACFP handbook lists the option of serving flavored fat-free milk to children six years and older. However, California law has precedence over the federal CACFP handbook’s allowances and must be adhered to by all child care facilities, including those participating in CACFP. **Therefore, all licensed child care providers are prohibited by state law from serving any beverages with either natural or artificial sweeteners, including flavored milk.**

It is important to note, however, that HSC section 1596.808 does not restrict beverages that are provided by a parent or legal guardian for his or her child at the child care facility. It also does not apply if a child has a medical necessity documented by a physician that includes the need for “medical food” necessary to meet the medical needs of that child.

The Healthy Beverages in Child Care Act (HSC section 1596.808) may be viewed in its entirety at [Assembly Bill Number 2084](#).

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, section 101227, which publishes the CACFP federal handbook, will be revised to incorporate the updated guidelines in regard to setting a minimum standard for the quality and quantity of nutritious, healthy meals for all children in care. Until such a revision is approved, providers who do not participate in the CACFP program are only required to follow the provisions of the prior CACFP federal handbook in effect on January 1, 1990. Of course, it is a good practice for all providers to comply with the most current CACFP federal handbook pending the approval of the regulation. If you have any questions, please contact your local [Licensing Regional Office](#).